

# Algebra II Syllabus

## Room 405

Mr. Salyer

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### Materials:

1. Loose leaf paper, pencils & red pens
2. Calculator for home use. I will provide TI-30IIs calculators for use in class on quizzes, tests and exams.
3. Graphing calculators are not allowed in my classroom nor can they be used on my exams. If I catch you playing calculator games in my classroom I will confiscate your calculator and keep it for an extended period of time.

**Grading:** Your grade will be calculated by using these weighted averages.

Quarter Grade	
Quarter Final	40%
Tests	30%
Quizzes	20%
Effort	5%
Participation	5%

Semester Grade	
1 <sup>st</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Quarter Grade	40%
2 <sup>nd</sup> (4 <sup>th</sup> ) Quarter Grade	40%
Semester Exam Grade	20%

Year Grade	
1 <sup>st</sup> Semester Grade	50%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Grade	50%

### MEP Policy:

1. Arrangements for extended time must be made 24 hours in advance of the quiz/test/exam date.
2. MEP students, who want extended time must take the entire exam, test or quiz after school on the day I specify.
3. Students with multiple missed assignments or who have had their Participation Grade lowered will not be allowed to take extended time.

### Absence Policy:

1. If you are absent only on the day of a quiz, test or exam, then you must make up the missed exam, test or quiz after school on the day that you return.
2. In the case of an extended absence, you will receive a grace period to get caught up equal to the time that you were absent.
3. If you do not show up after school on the day that you return or at the end of your grace period and you have not spoken to me to make other arrangements, then you will receive a **zero** on any exam, test, quiz or homework that is due.

### General Testing Policies:

1. During an exam, test or quiz you must remain silent for the entire period.
2. You may only work on the exam, test or quiz being given during that period and nothing else.
3. I will determine whether you may use a calculator and then I will provide you with the calculator.
4. Anything that I cannot read will be wrong.
5. I will keep all of your tests and quizzes.
6. You may go over them with me anytime after school on the days when I am in my classroom.

### Exams:

1. All of the exams in the course are cumulative.
2. You will find review sheets online for all of the quarter exams, the semester exam and the final exam.
3. All of the exams offer you the chance to select the difficulty level of the problems you will answer; however, the level of difficulty that you choose will place a cap on your grade. For example, if you choose to answer only the basic questions in each section, even if you get all of the questions correct, you would only receive a 70% on the exam because you have only demonstrated mastery of the basic skills of Algebra II and Trigonometry.
4. You are free to choose different difficulty levels in each section. This format requires that you honestly assess your capabilities at the end of each quarter.

**Tests:**

1. Chapter tests focus primarily on the types of problems found in that chapter, but the material is still cumulative.
2. Test questions are modeled after the types of problems found in your text.
3. You will find a review sheet giving problems sets for all of the chapter tests online. I suggest that you use this resource to create practice tests for yourself, duplicating the same circumstances that you will face in class during a test i.e. limited time and no notes or text to assist you.

**Quizzes:**

1. Quizzes are given on the first day of the week and cover problems from the previous week's homework.
2. The questions will be modeled after the types of problems you find in your text.
3. Quizzes cover a broader range of problems than are found on the chapter tests.

**Homework:**

1. Homework in the course is intended to be a self-assessment. It is your responsibility to ensure that you understand and are able to complete the problems successfully.
2. Every night you are to complete the odd problems for the section(s) that we cover in class.
  - a. You are then to use the key in the back of the book to grade your homework, writing this score at the top of the page.
  - b. After grading your work you should try to discover what mistakes you have made and correct those problems.
  - c. You should make a list of any problems that you cannot correct yourself and ask those questions at the beginning of class the next day.
  - d. You should make special note of any problem(s) that appears on the chapter test review sheet that you do not understand and also ask those questions at the beginning of class the next day.
3. I will collect your homework every day to ensure that you are completing, grading and correcting it.
  - a. I will record your homework score even though it does not factor into your quarter grade.
  - b. Your Effort Grade is the percentage of homework assignments where you have completed, graded and corrected all of the problems.
4. If you choose to do even problems for additional practice, you may check your work with one of the solution manuals that I will make available in my room.

**Participation:**

1. You will start each quarter with 100 points in your Participation Grade.
2. Anytime you engage in inappropriate behavior in my class or do not participate fully in the class then I will lower this grade.
3. Once points have been taken from this grade they cannot be regained.
4. If you use up all of these points then I will deduct points from the other parts of your grade.
5. The classroom rules provide some but not all of the instances that can result in points being taken away.
6. You are held responsible for the choices you make. How I treat you does not depend upon how I treat others in the class.

**Effort:**

1. As I explained in the homework section, I will be collecting your homework to ensure that you are completing, grading and correcting the homework problems.
2. Missing or incomplete assignments will lower this grade.
3. An assignment is considered incomplete if:
  - a. you have not made an honest effort to complete all of the problems, or
  - b. you have not shown the work necessary to complete the problems, or
  - c. you have not graded and corrected the assignment.

**Tutoring:** I arrive early at school (between 6:30 and 7:00) but generally this is when I get work done for the school or for other faculty members; however, **IF I AM FREE** I will gladly help you. I am available to help you after school unless there is some other school function that I am required to attend. On the days that I am in my classroom I will be available from 3:05-4:00; when I am on duty in the Walter Commons I will be available from

3:05 –5:00. I will post a schedule of where I will be each day after the school year begins. You may also try to reach me at home **no later than 8:00 Monday-Thursday** at 885-8352. If you choose to e-mail me at night do not expect an immediate reply. I generally check my mail the first thing in the morning when I arrive at school and I do not check it on weekends. When you come to me for tutoring, you should bring the same materials that you would have for class. Mr. Pharion will also be establishing tutoring sessions with National Honor Society students, and you will need to contact him for more information on this program.

### **Algebra II Study Suggestions:**

#### **For class:**

- Print out the notes for the chapter ahead of time from the internet.
- Read through the notes a day before the lecture.
- Bring your print-out to class with you. As I am lecturing have your textbook open and your print-out in front of you. Write down anything I say or put up on the board that is not in either the textbook or the print-out that makes them easier to understand. This is called annotating your notes.
- When we are working on problems in class, do the problem in your notebook. Make sure you write out all of the steps and any quick notes to help you remember what to do or short cuts you can take. Check your answer with the answer given in class. If your answer is different raise your hand to find out what you have done wrong and how to correct your mistake.

#### **At Home:**

- Using your textbook, your annotated print-outs and your notebook full of examples make an honest attempt to complete all of your homework problems. At the very least you could indicate what rules from the notes apply or which examples you think you should be using even if you have no idea of how to complete the problem. In this way you will show me that you have made an effort to complete the problem.
- Make a note in your notebook of which problems you had trouble completing so that you can ask me how to do them the next day in class, or come to see me after school for help.
- Pay particular attention to the problems I have listed on the review sheet as possible test questions. Make sure that you understand these problems very well since there is no in class review before tests.

#### **Before Quizzes and Tests:**

- Work through the review problems. You should have plenty of examples of how they are correctly done in your notebook from the work we have done in class each day.
- Study with a reliable friend who takes good notes. He may understand problems that you don't and vice-versa.
- Use the review sheets to make practice tests for yourself. Try to complete them in under 50 minutes without the aid of notes or the text.

## Classroom Rules

1. You are at all times to behave as a St. Charles gentleman and follow all of the school rules in The Student Handbook.
2. You must be quietly sitting in your seat when the bell rings. If you are not then you will be marked tardy and your participation grade will be lowered by 5 points.
3. You will have only the materials necessary for my class on your desk. I will confiscate anything else and lower your participation grade by 10 points.
4. You are to participate in all activities in this class. That means listening, taking notes, solving problems, asking or answering questions, and working individually when appropriate. If you are not an active participant in this class then I will lower your participation grade by 10 points each time.
5. You are responsible for your own behavior. The punishment you receive does not depend upon the actions of anyone else in the class but you.
6. A pattern of disruptive behavior will result not only in a significantly lower participation grade but also a 2 hour detention to be served at my convenience not yours.
7. You are not to touch anything on/in my desk, cabinets or podium without my explicit directions. You may not be behind my desk or at my computer. If you break either of these simple rules, then you will fail the class for the quarter.
8. You are not to touch any of the projection equipment in the room.
9. You are not to write on the boards unless given permission by me.
10. You are not to touch the windows, blinds or fans.